

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03371 181623Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /040 W

-----084880 181628Z /43

O 181605Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0873

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 3371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), PA, SHUM, PFOR

SUBJ: TODMAN VISIT - SUMMARY

1. AMBASSADOR TODMAN DEPARTED ASUNCION LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 17 AFTER A 30 HOUR VISIT WHICH INCLUDED SIDE TRIPS TO THE JOINT PARAGUAYAN-BRAZILIAN HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT ITAIPU AND TO AN AID-FINANCED LEARNINGCENTER IN ALTO PARANA; EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT STROESSNER, FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES, AND OTHER TOP GOP OFFICIALS; AND MEETINGS WITH THE OPPOSITION, WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, CHURCH AND INDIAN GROUPS, AND WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. BUSINESS. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE HE GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS AND U.S.-CUBAN RELATIONS WERE THE MAIN THEMES. THE VISIT WAS RELATIVELY LIGHT ON PROTOCOL, THOUGH THE ENTIRE CABINET AND AN HONOR GUARD WERE ON HAND BOTH ON ODMAN'S ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE.

2. TODMAN'S MAIN DISCUSSIONS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MEMCONS. WITH GOP OFFICIALS, THE IMPORTANCE OF PARAGUAY'S OFFICIALLY ACCEPTING AN EVENTUAL VISIT OF THE IAHRC WAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED. THE GOP IS IN NO DOUBT AS TO THE U.S. POSITION. WITH ALL INTERLOCUTORS AND AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, TODMAN PROJECTED THE SINCERITY OF THE

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USG'S CONCERN THAT THE THREE AREAS OF HR - THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO PERSONAL SECURITY, TO ECONOMIC WELLBEING, AND TO FREE POLITICAL EXPRESSION - BE EQUALLY RESPECTED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED PARAGUAY'S PROGRESS IN THE SECOND AREA AND SAID HE ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WOULD BE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TWO OTHERS AS WELL.

3. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE VISIT MADE AN IMMENSELY POSITIVE
IMPACT ON ALL GROUPS WHO HAD CONTACT WITH TODMAN AND HIS COMMITTEE.
FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE PUBLIC, THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS THE
HIGH POINT. IT WAS CARRIED LIVE ON RADIO AND LATER WAS GIVEN
PRIME TIME ON EVENING TV, AND THE FULL TRANSCRIPT WAS CARRIED
IN THE LEADING DAILY ON AUGUST 18. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER
STROESSNER, AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION, WILL NOW BE WILLING TO
AUTHORIZE AN IAHC VISIT. SO LONG AS IT REMAINS STALLED, A
NUMBER OF PENDING BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL LOANS AND CREDITS
WHICH PARAGUAY GREATLY NEEDS WILL HAVE TO REMAIN IN SUSPENSE.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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